

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/071,266

Examiner

Yogesh C. Garg

Applicant(s)

SWANSON, LESLIE H.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/30/2007 & Telephone Interview on 8/13/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21,22,28 and 45.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 8/17/2007.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

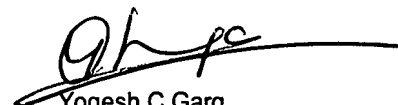
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 8/13/2007.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
Yogesh C Garg  
Primary Examiner  
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**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. The applicant's amendment filed on 7/30/2007 is entered. Claims 23-27 and 29-44 are previously withdrawn. Claims 21, 24 and 42 are amended. New claim 45 is added. Claims 21-22, 28 and 45 are pending for examination.

***Drawings***

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because in the figures 1-4, 7, 9, 11, 14, following DRAWING deficiencies have been noted:

the character of the lines, numbers and letters is poor in all the Figures;

the illustrations are penetrated or traversed by a solid or broken line that is not intended to be part of the drawing, such as a dark line caused by a flaw in the copying process;

the drawings are obscure and marred by black smudges, obliterations, or fax/copier marks; and

numbers, letters, or reference characters in the drawings are illegibly handwritten.

Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid

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abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Giovanna H. Fessenden on 8/13/2007.

The amendment is as follows:

1. 1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Current Amendment) A computer implemented intelligent catalog system for electronic creation, management and viewing of product information using a multimedia display system comprising:

(a) a database repository storing information including executable object model code on a computer readable medium about products from one or more vendors, where the product information is stored according to an object model representing the product information, the object model including parametric objects, graphic objects, document objects, configuration business

rules objects and procurement rule objects, where the object model handles is ~~capable of handling~~ an unrestricted number of objects for each product;

(b) the configuration business rules objects being stored according to a hierarchy by:

(i) storing information on sub-products that a product is comprised of, including storing product part replacement information;

(ii) storing product accessories that can be ~~capable of being~~ added to a product;

(iii) storing rules for building product solutions that incorporate product information stored in the database; or

(iv) storing rules for equivalence or substitution of products for use when building a product solution;

(c) the database using a meta data system describing the product information, the meta data system dynamically reconfiguring ~~capable of dynamic reconfiguration of~~ user applications when new product types are added to the database;

(d) ~~[[a]]~~ an executable content translator stored on a computer readable medium, in communication with the database, converting unstructured product content into structured product content based on the object model and the meta data system, where the content translator indexes the structured product content in the database to create at least a portion of the product information;

(e) executable user applications stored on a computer readable medium, in communication with the database, using the object model and the meta data system, the user applications including a catalog application and a bill of materials application; and

(f) one or more of the user applications configuring and designing a product solution based on the configuration business rules objects, where the product solution being configured and designed includes one or more products each containing one or more sub-products, the architecture of the user applications enabling changes to be made to the configuration business rules objects without any custom reprogramming by storing the configuration business rules objects separate from application code of the user applications.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented intelligent catalog system as in claim 21 wherein new configuration business rules are added without reprogramming the object model.

23-27 (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented intelligent catalog system as in Claim 21 wherein the one or more user applications are automatically adaptive to the dynamic reconfiguration of the product information.

29-44 (Canceled)

45. (Current Amendment) A computer implemented intelligent catalog system for electronic creation, management and viewing of product information using a multimedia display system comprising:

(a) a database repository storing information including executable object model code on a computer readable medium about products from one or vendors, where the product information is stored according to an object model representing the product information, the object model including parametric objects, graphic objects, document objects, configuration business rules objects and procurement rule objects, where the object model handles ~~is capable of handling~~ an unrestricted number of objects for each product;

(b) a generic scheme defining organization of the product information stored in the database, the scheme allows the addition of ~~being capable of adding~~ new products to the product information without any custom reprogramming, the scheme enabling data interchange and fast retrieval of the product information stored in the database;

(c) the configuration business rules objects being stored according to a hierarchy by:

(i) storing information on sub-products that a product is comprised of, including storing product part replacement information;

(ii) storing product accessories that can be ~~capable of being added~~ to a product;

(iii) storing rules for building product solutions that incorporate product information stored in the database; or

(iv) storing rules for equivalence or substitution of products for use when building a product solution;

(d) the database using a meta data system describing the product information, the meta data system dynamically reconfiguring ~~capable of dynamic reconfiguration~~ of user applications when new product types are added to the database;

(e) ~~[[a]]~~ an executable content translator stored on a computer readable medium, in communication with the database, converting unstructured product content into structured product content based on the object model and the meta data system, where the content translator indexes the structured product content in the database to create at least a portion of the product information;

(f) executable user applications stored on a computer readable medium, in communication with the database, using the object model and the meta data system, the user applications including a catalog application and a bill of materials application; and

(g) one or more of the user applications configuring and designing a product solution based on the configuration business rules objects, where the product solution being configured and designed includes one or more products each containing one or more sub-products, where application code for the user

applications is stored separate from the configuration business rules objects such that changes are capable of being made to the configuration business rules objects without having to perform custom reprogramming.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 21, 22, 28 and 45 are allowed.

5. With regards to claim 21, the prior art of record does not fairly anticipate or render obvious, either alone or combined, a computer implemented intelligent catalog system for electronic creation, management and viewing of product information using a multimedia display system comprising, inter alia, as a whole, namely: (a) a database repository storing information about products from one or more vendors according to an object model representing the product information, the object model including parametric objects, graphic objects, document objects, configuration business rules objects and procurement rule objects, where the object model is capable of handling an unlimited number of objects for each product; (b) the configuration business rules objects being stored according to a hierarchy by storing sub-products that a product is comprised of including storing product part replacement information; (c) the database repository using a meta data system describing the product information, the meta data system capable of dynamic reconfiguration of user applications when i) new product



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types are added to the database, or ii) changes are made to a multimedia display user interface; (d) a content translator, in communication with the database, converting unstructured product content into structured product content based on the object model and the meta data system, where the content translator indexes the structured product content in the database to create at least a portion of the product information; (e) the user applications, in communication with the database, using the object model and the meta data system, the user applications including a catalog application and a bill of materials application; and (f) one or more of the user applications configuring and designing a product solution based on the configuration business rules objects, where the product solution being configured and designed includes one or more products and one or more sub-products,, wherein the architecture of the user applications enables changes to the configuration business rules objects without any custom reprogramming by storing the configuration business rules objects separate from application code of the user applications.

Since the limitations in claim 45 are closely parallel and similar to the limitations in claim 21, the reasons for allowance are similar for claim 45 as set forth above for claim 21.

The reasons for allowance for dependent claims 22 and 28 are same as set forth above for the independent claim 21.

6. Best prior art discussion:

(i) Guheen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,615,166) discloses a software development and quoting system that enables software programmers to build and configure customized quoting tools for companies. Guheen's software development and quoting system enables a software development team to build custom application tools for a company that allow its customers to buy Internet software/hardware systems. Guheen teaches that the software development team using Guheen's software development and quoting system should create customized application tools for companies based on an object-oriented software methodology promoting reusability of software code. For example, Guheen teaches that the software development/engagement team should use Guheen's software development and quoting system to manage and reuse old code, modify the code for each client, and drop it into a new framework to address a new client or market. Each custom application tool designed by the team using Guheen's software development and quoting system would be unique in that the database repository and related software components would be developed from scratch, for each type of internet/software application to which they are directed. As such, any changes to a custom application tool designed using Guheen's system would require repackaging and redeployment. Instead of focusing on a software development and quoting system for a team of software developers to create customized software tools, the claimed invention, set forth in Claim 21, relates to a catalog system that enables users, such as companies (suppliers or vendors), to deploy easily, without hiring a software development team to perform custom programming, a catalog system for customers to configure and design a product solution. In particular, architecture of the inventive

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catalog system enables a company to add easily new products, accessories and rules accessories to its catalog without any custom software programming. As set forth in Claim 21, the architecture of the user applications enables changes to be made to the configuration business rules objects without any custom reprogramming by storing the configuration business rules objects separate from application code of the user applications, and Guheen does not relate to this inventive approach.

The applicant's remarks filed on 7/30/2007 (see Remarks, pages 9-15) are persuasive that Guheen does not disclose the claimed invention in claims

(ii) Van Etten et al. (US. Patent No. 6,892,185) is directed to a conventional online catalog that offers products wherein a catalog database is essentially a collection of paper catalogs that have been digitized and published online. Van Etten merely displays an item online, lists its details, price, and allows a user to compare similar items from other vendors and to purchase an item by adding it to the user's shopping cart. Van Etten does not relate to the inventive intelligent catalog system that configures and designs a product solution based on the product information, the product solution having sub-products, as set forth in Claim 21. The applicant's arguments filed on 12/22/2006, see remarks, pages 7-11 are persuasive that Van Etten et al. does not disclose Van Etten does not disclose the limitations of the claimed invention, namely:

(a) a database repository storing information about products from one or more vendors according to an object model representing the product information, the object model including parametric objects, graphic objects, document objects, configuration business rules objects and procurement rule objects, where the object model is capable of

handling an unlimited number of objects for each product; (b) the configuration business rules objects being stored according to a hierarchy by storing sub-products that a product is comprised of including storing product part replacement information; (c) the database repository using a meta data system describing the product information, the meta data system capable of dynamic reconfiguration of user applications when i) new product types are added to the database, or ii) changes are made to a multimedia display user interface; (d) a content translator, in communication with the database, converting unstructured product content into structured product content based on the object model and the meta data system, where the content translator indexes the structured product content in the database to create at least a portion of the product information; (e) the user applications, in communication with the database, using the object model and the meta data system, the user applications including a catalog application and a bill of materials application; and (f) one or more of the user applications configuring and designing a product solution based on the configuration business rules objects, where the product solution being configured and designed includes one or more products and one or more sub-products, as set forth in Claims 21 and 45.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(i) Craig et al. (US Patent 6,513,112) discloses a system and apparatus for administering configuration information wherein the server includes a COM (component Object Model) Catalog comprising a virtualised database of COM + applications, and their services with runtime and configuration-time abstraction layers for using and manipulating configuration information to populate a read cache of the client table object on client's request (see at least Abstract, col.2, lines 10-49 and Fig.4).

(ii) Palaniappan et al. (US 2002/0054152 A1, see at least Abstract and paragraphs 0031-0042)) discloses generation of standalone menu applications for catalog application including browsing and searching wherein the menus can be rearranged and modified without reprogramming the underlying code by separating the data representing menu driven hierarchy information stored in XML based configuration file. For example, during runtime, a user can pick up a version (English or Japanese depending upon the user's locale) and render the menu information for display.

(iii) Hazi et al. (US Patent 7,103,605 B1, see at least Abstract and col.1, line 55-col.2, line 38) discloses a computerized catalog publishing system and method enabling rapid creation and printing of custom catalogs that are pre-populated with product information, make those catalogs accessible to a vast number of users by accessing a single, master catalog database without any performance or administrative

overhead, and allow product distributors to produce catalogs that appear to be of their own creation and that present their own corporate identity. The disclosed system abstracts catalog content from presentation format, to enable template-driven catalog creation and further provides a remote interface for efficient update and maintenance of product information. The master product database and provides multiple overlapping subsets of the information contained within the product database to be displayed to multiple concurrent users in a variety of formats. The system further enables creating a multiplicity of timeshared catalogs with multiple views that can act as multiple storefronts.

(iv) Myers Jr. et al. (US Patent 6,959,268 B1, see at least Abstract, col.2, line 56-col.4, line 67 and col.24, line 35-col.25, line 28) discloses " A method for customizing a product catalog for use by a project in a collaborative engineering environment (CEE) for developing and maintaining complex system products. The product catalog is utilized for identifying parts and providing new parts comprising: an object oriented database management system (ODBMS) managing an associative object model (product model) for providing a persistent understanding of product and program information, assets and tools available in the enterprise, a plurality of part objects forming a product catalog, the part objects being defined by the product model and stored in the ODBMS, wherein each part object has default characteristics corresponding to a default environment, means for generating part references, where a part reference refers to a corresponding part object in the product catalog, and wherein

the part reference has characteristics customized for a project that override the default characteristics of its corresponding part object.”.

Note: The above four cited references, either alone or combined, do not anticipate or render obvious the limitations of the claimed invention, as a whole, namely: (a) a database repository storing information about products from one or more vendors according to an object model representing the product information, the object model including parametric objects, graphic objects, document objects, configuration business rules objects and procurement rule objects, where the object model is capable of handling an unlimited number of objects for each product; (b) the configuration business rules objects being stored according to a hierarchy by storing sub-products that a product is comprised of including storing product part replacement information; (c) the database repository using a meta data system describing the product information, the meta data system capable of dynamic reconfiguration of user applications when i) new product types are added to the database, or ii) changes are made to a multimedia display user interface; (d) a content translator, in communication with the database, converting unstructured product content into structured product content based on the object model and the meta data system, where the content translator indexes the structured product content in the database to create at least a portion of the product information; (e) the user applications, in communication with the database, using the object model and the meta data system, the user applications including a catalog application and a bill of materials application; and (f) one or more of the user applications configuring and designing a product solution based on the

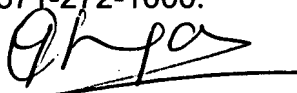
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configuration business rules objects, where the product solution being configured and designed includes one or more products and one or more sub-products, as set forth in Claims 21 and 45.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C. Garg whose telephone number is 571-272-6756. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Yogesh C Garg  
Primary Examiner  
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YCG/8/17/2007